



AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Population: Question on Language Spoken at Home (P-13)

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME

- The Department of Education (DOEd) uses these data to develop adult education and literacy programs to serve people with limited English proficiency.
- The DOEd also uses these data to allocate funds to school districts and states.
- The Department of Health and Human Services uses these data to develop health care and other services tailored to the language and cultural diversity of the elderly.
- Television and radio stations use these data to define their listening audience.
- Marketing companies use these data to meet demands for products and services tailored to consumers.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA ABOUT LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME

- No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
- Older Americans Act
- The Voting Rights Act

QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

13 a. Does this person speak a language other than English at home?

☐ Yes

☐ No → SKIP to question 14

b. What is this language?

For example: Korean, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese

c. How well does this person speak English?

☐ Very well

☐ Well

☐ Not well

☐ Not at all

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

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Helping You Make Informed Decisions



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HISTORY OF THE LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME QUESTION

- The question on language spoken at home was asked from 1890-1940 and again from 1960-1990.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

The language spoken at home question contains a series of items used to identify the populations who have difficulty communicating in English. The first item identifies people who use another language in addition to or in place of English. The next item identifies the specific language, and the last measures the individual's proficiency in English.

Together, these items identify the size and location of populations who may have limited English proficiency and by the languages in which they can communicate.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

1-888-456-7215

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<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

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